



## NORTH CAROLINA ARMY RETIREE COUNCIL

Post Office Box 70029 Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000

Telephone 1-800-535-6067 or 1-910-396-8591

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29 March 2004

### MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council Meeting  
20 March 2004

1. The quarterly meeting of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council (NCARC) was called to order by Co-Chairman SGM(R) Law at 0930 hours, 20 March 2004 at the Ft. Bragg Officers' Club.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

COL(R) Don Latella, Co-Chairman  
SGM(R) Larry Law, Co-Chairman  
COL(R) Rudy Baker  
COL(R) Joe F. Britt  
COL(R) Clifford M. Deal (III)  
COL(R) Donald A. Doll Jr. (II)  
COL(R) George F. Heberer (IV)  
COL(R) William F. Rawley Sr. (VI)  
COL(R) Thomas Rosell  
LTC(R) Rodney C. Byers (VII)  
CW4(R) James E. Flanders  
CSM(R) Rodney C. Deese (III)  
MSG(R) Moses L. Best  
MSG(R) Joe Wooten (VII)  
SFC(R) Salvatore J. Campochiaro  
SFC(R) Carrol Heiner  
SFC(R) William E. Schone (VI)  
SSG(R) Frances Crawford (V)  
Mr. John Bell - IRSO  
( ) indicates regional area

#### OTHERS PRESENT

COL Al Aycock, Garrison Commander  
COL Dave Mannes, Cdr. Womack AMC  
COL Mark McAllister, Cdr. 18<sup>th</sup> SSG (Abn)  
CPT John Misenheimer, Installation AG

2. Mr. Bell gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. SGM(R) Law recognized guests/visitors and reviewed the material in the packet.

4. COL Mannes reported that things at Womack are still moving along well. Contract doctors are back-filling the positions voided by deployed uniformed doctors. This summer should see the same services as present. The mission of clearing troops deploying are a priority. A question was raised concerning surveys that have been received after a patient had been seen at Womack. COL Mannes reported that this was 'centralized patient satisfaction survey process' handled out of Washington – Office of the Surgeon General of the Army, and is a normal procedure. A percentage of patients that come to the hospital are sent a survey - feed back from these surveys are used as a tool for measuring the quality of care being provided.

5. COL Aycock gave an update on activities at Ft. Bragg. He noted the support from retirees to the MWR programs on post. Higher headquarters does not seem to recognize that Ft. Bragg has over 20,000 troops deployed which has affected MWR profits. Another problem is that the post has not received the appropriated funding that it is due to support activities such as Child Care, Army Community Services etc., therefore MWR must make more money. He stated that most of the MWR activities are making money. A couple of activities are struggling (the O'Club and Ryder Golf Course). He stated that he does not intend to close any activity. So long as the MWR aggregate is positive he will strive to keep all activities operating. MWR activities will be improved and expanded in the coming years. An MWR coffee cart has been opened in the Soldier Support Center near the ID Card facility. The three bowling lanes will be consolidated into a bowling center, a state of the art bowling center. The golf courses are going to be established as recognized Audubon Certified (environmentally friendly) courses. He listed a number of prestigious first class private golf courses that are already certified – this would result in a two fold benefit – support environmental efforts and have Stryker and Ryder Golf Courses listed along side these other courses. On March 29<sup>th</sup> Ft. Bragg is conducting an Economical Development Seminar with the surrounding six county Chambers of Commerce and professional economical developers to school them in how to do government contracts. This is designed to both increased competition and allow local businesses to get a bigger share of contracts. The Braxton-Bragg Chapter of the AUSA will be sponsoring a convention 5 – 7 May. Guest speakers will include GEN Brown, USSOCOM, and GEN Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff. The annual force protection exercise 'Orbit Comet' will be conducted 14 – 18 June. This year's exercise will include a simulated plane crash in the vicinity of Simmons Army Air Field. Welcome home ceremonies for the troops 3-4 July. Daryl Worley Concert on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the all day activities on the 4<sup>th</sup> including music by the Embers. He recited a number of names, titles, and activities from Ft. Bragg that were designated as the BEST IN THE ARMY. He recommended that NCARC members tour the new houses that are being built on post as part of the new housing partnership with Picerne.

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He was asked to comment on the latest developments reference the Murchison Road bypass plan for entrance to the post. It will be a four to five year project. Bragg Blvd WILL NOT BE CLOSED, rather traffic will be rerouted. Drive to edge of post where a three lane highway will go to the right on to Murchison Road straight into Spring Lake. This route will be interstate quality without traffic lights. No businesses will be adversely affected. Question reference Tiger Woods visit. YES he's coming. Plans are still being formulated.

Comments that followed COL Aycock's remarks:

An ad in the March 4 Paraglide announcing the Monday specials at both Stryker and Ryder Golf Courses listed Ryder's old phone number. The number was changed in December. NOTE: Same ad was printed in the 25 March 2004 edition.

Rielly @ All America access point which is a Decal Only, allowing vehicles to pass after checking papers, going around vehicle to check license plate etc. rather than sending them to the non-decal area at the next access point non-decal lane.

Automated telephone directory system needs updating and expansion. There are still references made to activities that no longer exist. The caller is notified that if number not in system – refer to Sprint directory. OK for locals but not very practical for out-of-towners. It was recommended that possibly those MWR activities that are revenue producing be specifically added to the system – i.e. Stryker and Ryder Golf Courses, Bowling Lanes, clubs etc.

COL Aycock stated that Ft. Bragg would be sending something to the Airborne Special Operation Museum (ASOM) in Fayetteville in the near future. The original Iron Mike on Ft. Bragg is not a metal statue, and has been patched several times over the years. A replacement 'metal' Iron Mike is in the making – after it is in place the original one will be sent downtown to the ASOM.

6. COL McAllister reported even though many troops are deployed, efforts to streamline and improve services to active duty, retirees and family members goes forward. Plans are underway for a test phase to open the ID Card facility on Saturday from 9 to 12 starting in May. It was brought to COL McAllister's attention that the location of the Retirement Services Office is a problem. The problem was identified prior to the move there. Many of the retirees that visit the office are infirmed (using oxygen, walkers canes etc.) The availability of parking reasonably close to the entrance at present are poor with the outlook being even worse. COL Aycock indicated that he would look into this. He COL McAllister and the engineer would get together and see what might be done to correct this. COL McAllister was asked if there was any time frame requiring retirees to get the new ID Card. As of now, the new ID (CAT Card) is strictly for active duty. He also indicated that he plans to have the local web site updated and expanded to answer many questions which could result in a person making fewer trips to post.

7. Ms. Gordon handed out the latest AFFES Catalogue. AAFES facilities on Ft. Bragg will soon have loose change bowl available with the proceeds going to AER. Fuel pumps at Smoke Bomb Hill available 24hrs. Cost of gas on post – PX MUST pay the NC State Tax on motor fuel. To determine price on post, surveys of gas prices in the surrounding area are taken from 5 to 10 stations which are considered the highest competition, then the post establishes a price on the lowest one. COL Aycock added that there is a project underway in conjunction with Camp Lejeune and State Senator Tony Rand to have the state motor fuel tax removed from sales on post. Ms. Gordon stated that she has initiated a proposal to AAFES Headquarters to give those who swipe their AAFES Star Card at PX pumps a few cents discount per gallon. Greek Cafe at mini-mall is now open as well as Capt. D's Godfather Pizza Restaurant on Smoke Bomb Hill. A UPS Store has opened at the mini-mall. An Optometry Clinic will be opening at North Post PX in conjunction with the existing optical shop. She passed out some employee reward certificates that may be used by customers to recognize an employee. Several drawing for door prize sponsored by AFFES (gift certificates, certificates for meals at AFFES eateries etc.) were conducted.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Commissary: SFC(R) Campochiaro reported the North Commissary is still under renovation and traffic is a problem and will remain so until projects are completed. The North Commissary conducted a very successful case lot sale in the parking lot this past week. The following comments were presented and requested that they be passed on to the Commissary Officer: It has been noted that there has not been any Commissary Column in Ft. Bragg Paraglide for the past several weeks; complaints from shoppers that in the South Commissary not all like items are shelved together – a couple of examples that were passed on were breakfast cereals and shampoos – shoppers have to go to two or three locations rather than just to one location for all cereals and one location for all shampoos. Shoppers' comments were that commissary shoppers are different from those in local super markets – the greatest majority of commissary shoppers are on a mission. Scattering products throughout the store works in civilian super markets where it is done as an 'eye catcher' – not needed in commissary. The examples and comments given were furnished by some long time commissary shoppers.

b. RAD 2004: Mr. Bell stated that the RAD is scheduled for 17 – 18 September 2004. The retiree golf tournament will be conducted on Friday and a dinner that evening at the O'Club. Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> activities will be located at Womack AMC. As in the past, Womack will make space available for SJA and other administrative activities. COL Latella asked if the RAD Golf Tournament could be played at Ryder Golf Course rather than Stryker since Ryder seems to need some help, let's help them.

#### 9. Regional Reports:

##### Region I - Western – No Report

Region II - Northwest - COL(R) Donald Doll was introduced to the Council as the new Co-Chairman replacing COL(R) Sweet. He was given his NCARC name tag and coffee mug by COL(R) Latella. COL(R) Doll reported that there is still snow coming down in that area. They are working on projects to obtain retiree discounts from merchants in the area. He also reported that there will retiree activities on 3 July. The Green Berets Sport Parachute Club will participate in the activities.

Region III - Southern Piedmont – COL(R) Deal reported that information about NCARC and particularly Region III is available for retirees in the area. Efforts are ongoing to get more retirees involved in the region's activities. Plans to establish closer liaison with the area congressional representatives are in the works. CSM(R) Deese reported on a project with a local JROTC. The senior JROTC advisor (MAJ Willie) furnishes a JROTC color guard for each of the region's meetings. Additionally, MAJ Willie is soliciting retirees to be speakers to high school student groups. CSM(R) Deese asked if there was any agency/activity that can be contacted to assist retirees plan travel etc. He commented that during his last tour of active duty in Germany the AAFES facilities advertised such things in their facilities. COL Aycock stated that MWR does have a Tour and Travel activity that does this. He stated that he would have a Tour and Travel representative at the next meeting to brief the Council.

Region IV – TRIAD – COL(R) Heberer stated that he has not had any input from retirees in the area.

Region V – Cape Fear – SSG(R) Crawford reported that one can not draw both the Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and concurrent receipt pay. CRSC is tax free, however, concurrent receipt is NOT. Those drawing CRSC will eventually be allowed to choose each year which one they desire to draw. COL(R) Latella asked how many had applied for CRSC, and if so, had they received any information as to the status of their applications. A couple of people answered that they had applied and had received a letter indicating that the application had been received and they would be getting notification of results. A comment was made that within the past month the RSO has been informed by some retirees that they have received both the back portion lump sum and the monthly payments have started. SSG(R) Crawford stated that a local American Legion and VFW were both formulating plans to invite WWII veterans to their facilities to observe via TV the ceremonies at the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC during memorial day weekend.

Region VI – Triangle – COL (R) Rawley reported that the NC USO is opening a facility at RDU airport on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The area is about 4,000 sq ft. In addition to the facility, transportation assistance will be available to get service members from airport to home in the event other transportation is no available. The local Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has endorsed this effort. SFC(R) Schone reported on National Veterans and State Veterans Cemeteries in NC. He reviewed that procedures and documentation necessary for interment in one of these cemeteries. The only National Veterans Cemetery in NC that is still open is in Salisbury. There are three State Veterans Cemeteries Spring Lake (Sand Hills) – Jacksonville - Black Mountain. It was again pointed out that funeral directors are the ones who make the contact with Ft. Bragg casualty office. It was also emphasized that with the new law protecting DD Form 214, funeral directors CAN NOT get 214s, therefore, it is very important that veterans/retirees have a copy of DD Form 214 I among their personal papers.

Region VII – Southeastern – LTC(R) Byers reported that he is still looking for a co-chairman to replace MSG(R) Cummings. He said in November he had attended an all services retired officers function at Camp Lejeune. The speaker was new commanding general of Camp Lejeune. Rather than give a presentation on an overview of activities at Camp Lejeune, he gave a run down of his role while in Iraq which apparently was logistics. His remarks were not very complimentary towards the Army – after a while it must have occurred to him that this was a mixed services group, and he asked if there were any Army retirees in the audience – after which he sort of backed-off. Although LTC(R) Byers did not appreciate the speaker's remarks, he was unable to challenge anything since he was not armed with any facts to make a rebuttal. Bottom line was he was disappointed that a senior officer from one service would publicly make derogatory remarks about a sister service.

Region VIII – Coastal Plains – MSG(R) Wooten reported that retirees in the region gather the first Saturday every month. The primary point surfaced at the last meeting was the SBP and Social Security off-set. He requested some clarification on the off-set. Mr. Bell stated depending on when the service member retired dictates which formula will be utilized to determine the SBP amount. RSO can assist those surviving spouses who think there may be a discrepancy in the amount they are receiving or due to receive.

10. Comments fro Other Council Members:

COL(R) Baker announced that the Cumberland County Business Council is sponsoring a Military Relations Community Forum on 22 April. Several groupings are being invited to participate, one group being composed of military retirees. A number of retirees living in Cumberland County have already been contacted, however, if anyone interested they should contact COL(R) Baker. He also announced that he has again been selected to be a member of the National AUSA Resolutions Committee. Previous resolutions will be reviewed to determine if they should be held –over or withdrawn, likewise, any new issues that are deemed appropriate for presentation as a resolution to the National Committee will be initiated. Any input is desired.

COL(R) Britt commented that the SBP- Social Security offset seems to be the primary topic among retirees in his area. A brief discussion followed outlining the basic formula for the basis of the 55 – 35 percent.

COL(R) Rosell commented that the current Paraglide newspaper has an article that outlines information reference the visit of Tiger Woods.

11. Co-Chairmen Remarks:

COL(R) Latella expressed appreciation for everything the council members do both here at the meetings and in the regional areas. He particularly thanked COL Aycock for the support the council is presently receiving from the Garrison Commander's Office.

SGM(R) Law announced that the Annual VA Voluntary Service Recognition Banquet would be held on 15 April. Two members of the council will be appropriately recognized at this event: SSG(R) Crawford who has amassed 2,785 hours over the past 6 years. She represents the VFW, Paralyzed Veterans, American Legion on different days of the week. Our other council member CW4(R) Flanders has been volunteering at the VA Medical center for some 20 years and has 10,417 volunteer hours to his credit. "HOOAY CHIEF".

NCARC

29 March 2004

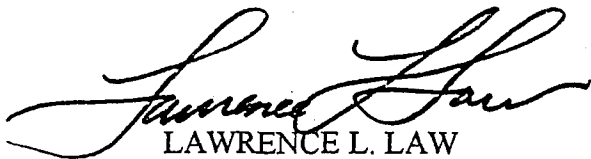
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He mentioned an initiative that has been started by Paul Friday. Mr. Friday is interested in doing something for WWII veterans during the Memorial Day weekend to coincide with the formal dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. He has contacted the Marine bases in NC and is trying set up some activities wherein the WWII Veterans are invited to the installations for possibly some briefing, static displays and view the DC memorial dedication at a central location on large TV screen. My name was given to him as a POC here by COL Tad Davis. Informal contact has been made with Vicky Lee, Ft. Bragg Community Relations Chief, primarily to reaffirm a response to Mr. Friday. He was informed that All American Week is going on at that time, and because of this there are several activities over the Thursday-Friday period. Static displays are normally set up in conjunction with the Division Review at Pike Field on Thursday and the JRTX at Sicily DZ on Friday. If he wants to have an organized group of WWII veterans then there is a need for a sponsor organization such as RMA; MOOA, AUSA to sort of underwrite the project. The sponsor can then make a formal request to Community Relations. SSG(R) Crawford started that VFW Post 670, and American Legion Post 202 plan to host WWII veterans at their facilities to observe the dedication ceremony via TV..

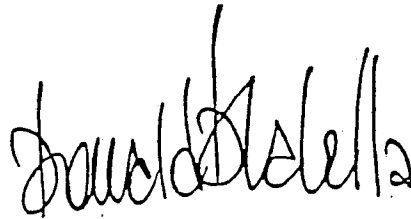
NOTE; A Retiree Account Statement (Pay Voucher), with individual's personal data blocked, is included to show where and how SBP information is displayed.

Next meeting is scheduled for 19 June 2004

12: Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.



LAWRENCE L. LAW  
Sergeant Major, USA, Retired  
Co-Chairman



DONALD LATELLA  
Colonel, USA, Retired  
Co-Chairman

DISTRIBUTION:

1 ea Council Member  
Cdr, XVIII Abn Corps & Ft. Bragg  
Cdr, FORSCOM  
HQDA, DAPE-RSO

**RETIREE ACCOUNT STATEMENT**STATEMENT EFFECTIVE DATE  
DEC 02, 2003NEW PAY DUE AS OF  
JAN 02, 2004

SSN [REDACTED]

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOTIFY DFAS IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

006328

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| ITEM           | OLD        | NEW        | ITEM             | OLD        | NEW        |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| GROSS PAY      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | FITW             | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| VA WAIVER      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ADDL FITW        | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| SBP COSTS      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ALLOTMENTS/BONDS | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| TAXABLE INCOME | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |                  |            |            |
|                |            |            | NET PAY          | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

**PAYMENT ADDRESS**

TAXABLE INCOME: [REDACTED]

FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHELD: [REDACTED]

DIRECT DEPOSIT

FEDERAL WITHHOLDING STATUS:  
TOTAL EXEMPTIONS:  
FEDERAL INCOME TAX WITHHELD:  
ADDITIONAL FITW: [REDACTED]**SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) COVERAGE**

|                    |             |                      |            |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| SBP COVERAGE TYPE: | SPOUSE ONLY | ANNUITY BASE AMOUNT: | 2,905.04   |
| SPOUSE ONLY COST:  | 187.74      | 55% ANNUITY AMOUNT:  | 1,597.80   |
|                    |             | 35% ANNUITY AMOUNT:  | 1,016.76   |
|                    |             | SPOUSE DOB:          | [REDACTED] |

THE ANNUITY PAYABLE IS 55% OF YOUR ANNUITY BASE AMOUNT UNTIL YOUR SPOUSE REACHES AGE 62. AT AGE 62, THE ANNUITY MAY BE REDUCED DUE TO SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET, OR UNDER THE TWO-TIER FORMULA. THAT REDUCTION MAY RESULT IN AN ANNUITY THAT RANGES BETWEEN 35% (\$1016.76) AND 55% (\$1597.80) OF THE ANNUITY BASE AMOUNT. THE COMBINATION OF THE SBP ANNUITY AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WILL PROVIDE TOTAL PAYMENTS FROM DFAS AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OF AT LEAST 55% OF YOUR BASE AMOUNT. THE ACTUAL ANNUITY PAYABLE IS DEPENDENT ON FACTORS IN EFFECT WHEN THE ANNUITY IS ESTABLISHED.